

CHARLIE BAKER
Governor



KARYN POLITO
Lt. Governor

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Governor Baker Nominates Two to Massachusetts District Court

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Daniel E. Dilorati and Scott D. Peterson as Associate Justices of the Massachusetts District Court. Dilorati has nearly three decades of trial experience in the Massachusetts Appellate, Superior, and District Courts and Peterson is an experienced litigator who currently represents non-profits and small and medium-sized businesses in legal disputes across the Commonwealth.

“Daniel Dilorati and Scott Peterson have nearly sixty years of combined experience dutifully serving the Commonwealth’s citizens and businesses in a wide variety of legal matters,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “I am confident that, if confirmed by the Governor’s Council, they will faithfully serve Massachusetts citizens as Associate Justices on the District Court-

“I am pleased with the nomination of these two well-respected and skilled attorneys,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “Their breadth of experience in the Commonwealth’s court system, as well as their commitment to their communities, will allow them, if confirmed, to bring fairness and compassion to the District Court.”

The District Court hears a wide range of criminal, civil, housing, juvenile, mental health, and other types of cases. District Court criminal jurisdiction extends to all felonies punishable by a sentence up to five years, and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; all misdemeanors; and all violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. In civil matters, District Court judges conduct both jury and jury-waived trials, and determine with finality any matter in which the likelihood of recovery does not exceed \$25,000. The District Court also tries small claims involving up to \$7,000 (initially tried to a magistrate, with a defense right of appeal either to a judge or to a jury). The District Court’s civil jurisdiction also includes many

specialized proceedings, including abuse prevention restraining orders and civil motor vehicle infractions (tried initially to a magistrate, with right of appeal to a judge).

For more information about the District Court, visit <http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/dc/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

About Daniel Dilorati

Daniel Dilorati has been a sole practitioner in Quincy since 1995, specializing in both civil and criminal defense litigation in the Massachusetts Appellate, Superior, and District Courts. Mr. Dilorati's legal career began in 1987 as a Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Civil Bureau where he handled tort, contract, eminent domain, and worker's compensation matters. From 1991 to 1995 he worked at Morrison, Mahoney & Miller, LLP assigned to the Professional Liability defense unit. Mr. Dilorati attended Boston Latin School and Phillips Academy in Andover, received his B.A in the Classics from Harvard University in 1979, and graduated from Suffolk University Law School in 1987. He and his wife Joan reside in Braintree. They have one daughter.

About Scott D. Peterson

Scott Peterson has been in private practice for thirty years. Prior to starting his own firm in 2013, Mr. Peterson worked for Foley & Foley, an employment litigation firm, and Healy & Healy, an insurance defense and general litigation firm. Mr. Peterson represents individuals, insurers, and small and medium sized businesses in connection with construction claims, personal injury claims, insurance disputes, and employment claims. He has litigated cases before United States District Court, and the Massachusetts Superior and District Courts, and has argued appeals before the Supreme Judicial Court and the Appeals Court. Mr. Peterson served as a Special Assistant District Attorney with the Plymouth DA's Office and has held leadership positions with the Plymouth County Bar Association, including as President in 2010, and the Massachusetts Bar Association, where he serves on the Executive Management Board. Mr. Peterson graduated from Boston College in 1983 with a B.A. in Political Science, and received his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 1986. He resides in Hingham with his wife and son.